

II. COMMENTS

a. Claim Numbering

Pending claim 46 (i.e., the 46th claim in the application as filed) was incorrectly numbered as "45" in the application. As a result, there is a gap in the numbering between the claim numbered "45" and the claim numbered "47." The applicants appreciate the Examiner's diligence in correctly treating the claim numbered "45" as claim 46. The numbering error has been corrected in the attached Appendices.

b. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 46-48 and 50-51 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent 6,233,389 (Barton et al.).

The applicants have amended claims 46 and 51 to clarify the claimed invention. In particular, claim 46 now recites that the selection of the first output is based at least in part on the selection of the first source. Claim 51 now recites that the output selection circuit is responsive to the selection of the first source.

Barton et al. does not teach any method or system in which the selection of an output module is based on the selection of the input module. In contrast, one insight provided by the present application is that particular playback preferences can be associated with certain sources or with certain recorded signals. Providing an output in accordance with these preferences is more convenient for the user, who need not remember and re-set his preferences on each occasion.

Further to this insight, claims 55-67 have been added to the application to recite various aspects of this inventive method and system of controlling audio/video devices.

c. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 49 is allowable. To capture the allowable subject matter of claim 49 in independent form, claim 68 has been added to the application. Claim 68 recites the subject matter of claim 49, incorporating all the limitations of original claim 49 and those of parent claim 46 (before the accompanying amendment of claim 46). As a result, the applicants submit that claim 68 is in a condition for allowance.

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants submit that the pending claims in this application are in a condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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